

# MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK

## MINUTES

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APRIL 11, 2011

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock met in regular session at the Town Hall on Monday, April 11, 2011 with Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Council Members Charles Cephas, Parker Durham, Michael Henry and Clerk/Treasurer Kathleen Clough present. Council Members Michael Nordstrom and Christopher Adams were absent. Town Attorney Hugh Carter Vinson was absent due to illness.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and after the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation, UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Henry, the agenda was approved. Council Member Cephas abstained.

Mayor Spratt presented a Town of Hurlock Proclamation, followed by a Presentation by a Hospice Representative to bring attention to National Health Care Decisions Day, April 16<sup>th</sup>, outlining the need for Advance Directives and End of Life decision-making.

### Consent Agenda (Minutes, Department Reports)

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Parker AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Henry, the Minutes of the March 28, 2011 Town Meeting were approved. Council Member Cephas abstained.

### Hurlock Police Department

Police Chief Hutton had nothing to report.

### Department of Public Works

Hurlock streets continue to be swept every two weeks. Work on the 392 Lift Station is now complete. Plant start-up was performed September 22 and project is considered complete as of September 27. Final inspection and start of warranty period is pending.

Building safety checks have been performed during the time period covered by this report. Safety checks include, but are not limited to, fire extinguishers (checked for operational status), smoke detectors (checked for operational status), air conditioner filter changes, and emergency lighting checks. Observations of the general condition of the properties and grounds are made during the safety checks. Any deficiencies noted are promptly corrected and/or repaired. The time involved in the repairs normally is dependent on the severity of the deficiency.

Storm Sewer has been operating normally since the last report.

Wastewater treatment plant has been operating normally since the last report.

Engineering, planning and grant application process has begun on upgrades to Jackson Street pump station. These upgrades include new pumps, generator and revisions to SCADA system

The Town of Hurlock will have their annual clean-up day on May 7, 2011. Hurlock residents can bring their spring clean-up items to the Police Department parking lot where roll off containers will be located. There will be four (4) containers with one (1) container being reserved for metal and appliances only. Containers will be monitored by DPW employees. Items that will not be accepted include: construction demolition debris, tires, hazardous and/ or explosive materials,

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tree limbs over four feet in length or four inches in diameter, petroleum products or paint, and dead animals.

During the month of May, DPW will be picking up bulk trash on each Thursday free of charge. Residents can bring their items to the curb and DPW will pick them up. Rules for Spring Clean-up will apply.

For paint cans, kitty litter is an approved method of absorbing left over paint. Call the Landfill for information on motor oil, paint thinner, etc.

### Planning & Zoning; Code Enforcement

Mr. John Avery reported that 6 cars have been removed; 3 from James Street and 3 vehicles from 500 Railroad Avenue.

206 South Main Street is still scheduled for demolition at the end of the month. Prior to that, the electricity, water, and sewer will be disconnected.

Mr. Avery reminded citizens when they cut their grass not to let it go into the street as it gets in the gutters and clogs the storm drains; when mowing make sure the grass is being blown toward your property

Mr. Avery advised that FEMA has approved the Town of Hurlock Flood Plain Ordinance.

Mr. Avery reported that there was only one response and bid to the following published public notice:

*"The Town of Hurlock will be accepting bids to farm approximately 28 acres. Bids should be on a per acre price for one year. Bids are due no later than 12:00 noon April 1st, 2011. Bids will be accepted in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street or by mail to: Town of Hurlock, PO Box 327, Hurlock, MD 21643."*

This acreage has been sitting idle and growing wild for a number of years. Mayor Spratt directed Mr. Avery to put it out to bid to generate some income for the Town. It is now being tilled and the Town will now start receiving income on this parcel.

### County Councilman Rick Price

Councilman Price thanked Mayor Spratt for coming to the last County Council meeting with the other Dorchester County Mayors. He advised the Council that the County supports the State Highway Needs Inventory, and will set up a work session for Planning and Economic Development to help with business hurdles. There will be a Bond Bill Public Hearing for \$2.2 Million for the Tech Park and one more budget workshop on Thursday at 4:30 P.M.

### Clerk/Treasurer Report

Clerk/Treasurer Kathleen Clough reminded residents of the Town of Hurlock that there is now only one voting list and if qualified voters want to participate in Hurlock elections, they must register with the County Elections Board.

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The Maryland General Assembly has restored some of the Highway User Funds to Local Governments. As reported to the Council last week, the Town of Hurlock was notified that we would receive \$5,700 for FY 2012. However, Hurlock will now be receiving \$34,000 for FY 2011/2012.

The Town is exploring and starting the application process for funding from USDA for money to repair Neilson Street. This grant requires a 25% Match from the Town. With the increased funding, (inadequate as it still is), if we are approved for the grant, we will be able to meet the requirements to complete the work. When the funding is known, the Town will, as always, put the project out to bid.

It has come to the Town's attention that five fire hydrants are unable to be opened; seven more we can't get parts, and on four of the hydrants, the hoses are too short. The cost is between \$2,500 and \$4,500 per hydrant.. Apparently this has been known for a number of years and it was never addressed or rectified. However, it is a serious risk to the Townspeople and their property. Mayor Spratt has instructed staff to find the funds to get them fixed or replaced as soon as possible. The Town is investigating eligibility for funding from the USDA Rural Development Utilities Program, and will work in partnership with the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company to seek other funding opportunities.

### Old Business

Mayor Spratt reported that the HURO event was a great success with the schools. HURO collects coats, food, etc. and each church assumes responsibility for each individual event. The students played Bingo and other games, and at the end of the event, each child left with a gift.

### New Business

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Henry, Introduction of Ordinance 2011-02 "Burning Within the Town Limits" the was approved unanimously.

### Introduction of **ORDINANCE NO. 2011-2**

**Section 1. Be it enacted and ordained** by the Mayor and Council of Hurlock, Maryland, a municipal corporation of the State of Maryland, repeal and re-enact Section 6-105, entitled "Burning Within Town Limits" of Article 1 of Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Hurlock, Maryland, entitled "Miscellaneous Offenses (Peace and Order). All other sections of Chapter shall remain as previously enacted.

Hurlock Volunteer Fire Department representative Mr. David Wands stated that he was in full agreement with this Ordinance and that the Fire Department supported it wholeheartedly. He explained that during the day they are short on labor to fight fires and if we can do anything to prevent fires in Town the Fire Department members are all in favor.

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Cedric Turner rose to speak on behalf of Israel Gomez stating that he wanted the annexation papers showing that Jackson Street was legally annexed into the Town. Council Member Cephas requested that County Council Member Rick Price to produce full legal documentation.

Council Member Durham stated that the Town map from 1945, the oldest we can find, clearly shows Town property includes Jackson Street, and it is also included in the Town Charter of the Corporate Limits of the Town of Hurlock from the 1930 published Charter. This will be discussed further when the full Council is present.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Cephas AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Henry, Council Member Cephas' proposals were tabled until the next meeting. The Motion passed unanimously.

Following Council remarks, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Clough, M.S.  
Clerk/Treasurer